

REMARKS**Claim Status**

Claims 1, 3-6, and 12-21 are pending in the application. This paper amends claims 1, 12, and 17; and cancels claims 22-24 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 12, and 17 are the independent claims of the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the notification of allowable subject matter in claims 22-24.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all limitations of claim 22, and claim 22 has accordingly been canceled. Because claim 22 depended directly from claim 1 with no intervening claims, the scope of claim 1 is now the same as that of the now canceled claim 22. Amended claim 1 should therefore be allowable. Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to incorporate all limitations of claim 23, and claim 22 has accordingly been canceled. Because claim 23 depended directly from claim 12 with no intervening claims, the scope of claim 12 is now the same as that of the now canceled claim 23.

Amended claim 12 should therefore be allowable. Claims 13-16 depend from claim 12 and should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 12.

Independent claim 17 has been amended to incorporate all limitations of claim 24, and claim 24 has accordingly been canceled. Because claim 24 depended directly from claim 17 with no intervening claims, the scope of claim 17 is now the same as that of claim 24. Amended claim 12 should therefore be allowable. Claims 18-21 depend from claim 17 and should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 17.


CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims of the present application are allowable. To discuss any matter pertaining to the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (858) 720-9431. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address indicated below.

Having made an effort to bring the application in condition for allowance, a timely notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/14/2005


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